

Educational Attainment in Utah

*How far up the
learning ladder
are people in
Utah?*

Utah values education, and that fact is clear once you take a look at the data from the American Community Survey (ACS). The state is young and educated, which makes Utah one of the most desirable places to locate a business that relies on a well-educated and trained workforce.

One of the questions the ACS asks individuals is how much education they have acquired. Although there are seven educational attainment groups, they are collapsed into four (see the graph categories). This analysis includes a look at the educational attainment of the population age 25 or older, in Utah and six of its counties. Currently, The ACS only publishes data for those counties with populations of 65,000 or higher.

Utah is one of the most highly educated states in the country. In 2006,

the percentage of Utahns with a high school diploma or higher was 90.5. For the U.S. that proportion was only 84.1. The difference is closer between the state and the nation for those that have a bachelor's degree or higher. The U.S. figure is 27.0 percent compared the 28.6 percent for Utah.

Even bigger differences in educational attainment are apparent when the six Utah counties are compared (see graph). For the population with less than a high school diploma, Weber County is tops with 12.1 percent, and Davis County is lowest with 5.1 percent.

On the other end of the education continuum—the proportion of population with a bachelor's degree or higher—Cache and Utah counties are at the head of the class with 34.2 percent and 34.3 percent respectively. Why is that? It's because both counties

are homes to large universities—Utah State University in Cache and Brigham Young University and Utah Valley University in Utah County. Salt Lake County's bachelor's degree percent is an even 30.0. Washington County has the lowest percentage of population with a bachelor's degree with 19.6 percent. One reason is the population

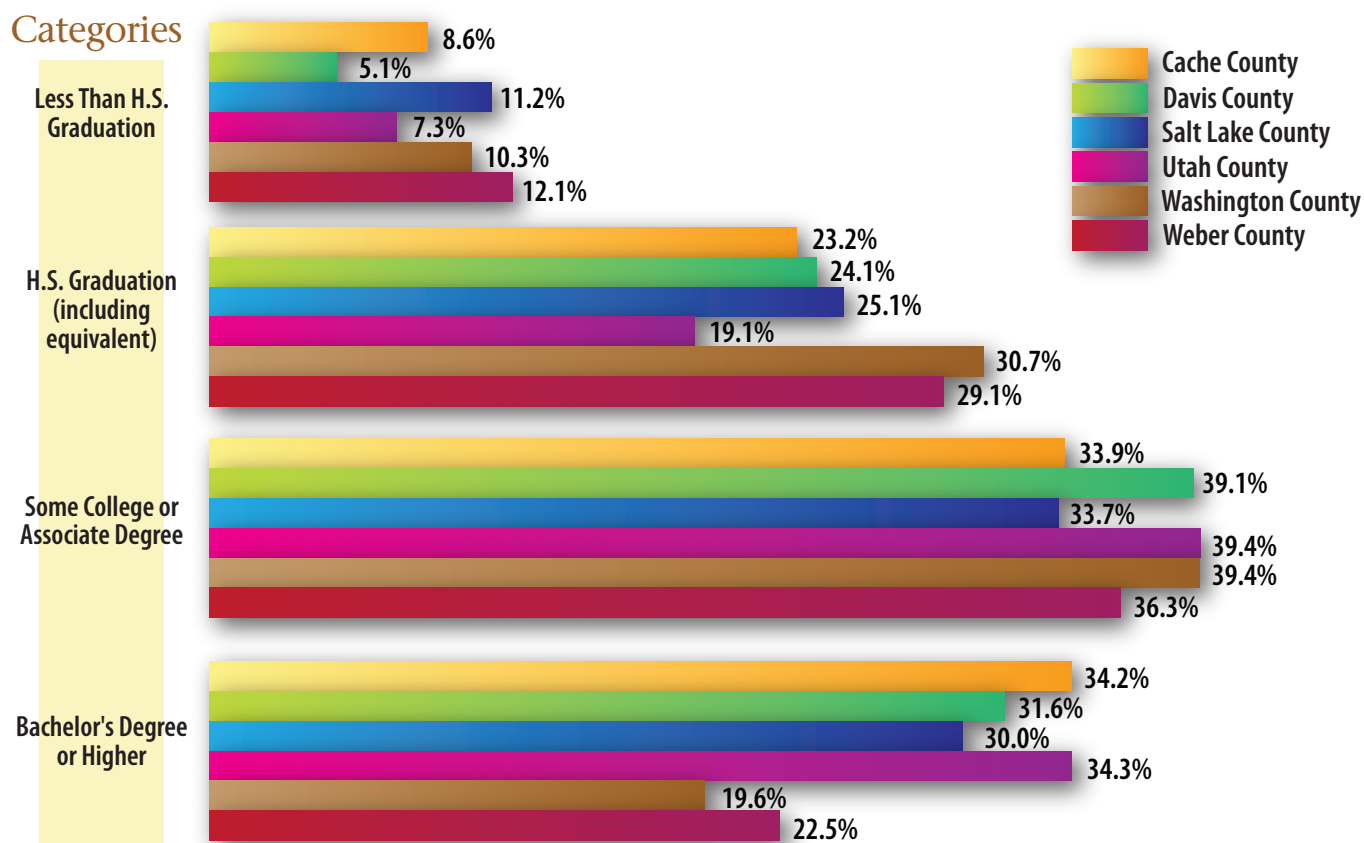
in Washington County is the oldest, with 60 percent of the population age 25 or older.

Most Utahns have some college or an associate degree. The percentages for this education level vary across the counties between a third of the population and 40 percent. Nationally,

26.9 percent of the population has had some college or has an associate degree. Most of the difference is because relatively more Utahns attend some college than in the nation. ⓘ

For information about the ACS or the ACS Factfinder see: http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en

Educational Attainment of the Population Age 25+ in Selected Utah Counties 2006



Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, August 2008.